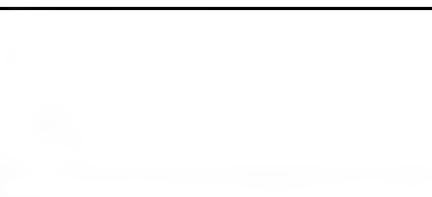


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9 March 1963

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Common Market--Britain: (Efforts in the Benelux countries to work out some kind of interim economic tie between Britain and the Common Market appear to have reached a dead end.)

(At a meeting in Brussels on 6 March, Britain's chief Common Market negotiator and the Belgian and Dutch foreign ministers agreed there was little prospect of establishing a limited customs union, free trade area, or other such economic arrangement between the UK and the Six.)

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The three did agree to attempt to raise at a meeting later this month of the seven-nation Western European Union (WEU) the question of what might be done to strengthen political, military, and cultural ties among the WEU members. There is some doubt the French would agree to such a discussion, however.)

(Failure of the Belgian initiative--and of similar West German proposals--results from the growing realization that to negotiate some form of association between the UK and the EEC would be almost as difficult as to negotiate full membership. The Macmillan government has stressed the political impossibility of resuming talks with the EEC on this basis without assurances against another French veto.)

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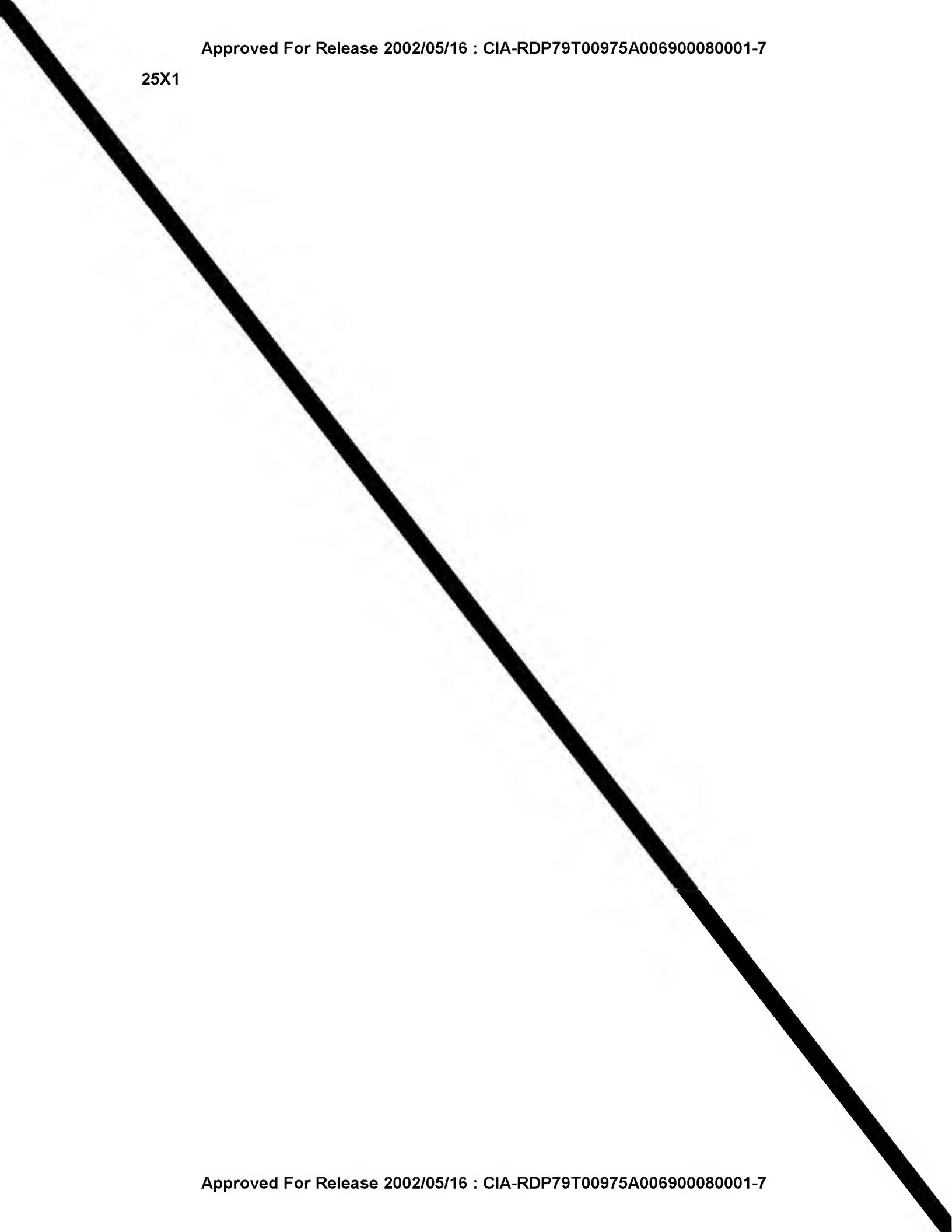
9 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

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*Syria: The revolutionary command announced on 9 March the formation of a coalition cabinet headed by Baathist Salah al-Din al-Bitar, who was designated premier and foreign minister. He was co-founder of the Baath party with Michel Aflaq in 1954. Bitar was foreign minister in left-wing cabinets from June 1956 up to the union with Egypt in February 1958. Also included in the cabinet is Abd al-Wahab Hawmad, a leader of the left-wing faction of the Populist party, who was appointed finance minister.

The revolutionary command has received pledges of support from all significant army units and appears to be in firm control.

Opposition by a part of the air force was evidently overcome by yesterday afternoon. Tight security controls and a rigorously-enforced curfew have been instituted.

The forces behind the coup apparently include Baathists, pro-Nasirists, and middle-of-the-road Arab nationalists. Their coalition may prove to be fragile, however, with one group or another trying to move quickly into a dominant role. The Baath party's international chief, Michel Aflaq, who traveled to Damascus from Beirut yesterday evening, may press for this kind of action.

The revolutionary command has espoused positive neutrality and declared itself in favor of Arab unity in some form; it has attempted, however, to keep a careful balance between its gestures toward Iraq and toward the UAR. Each of those governments has declared that it would send military support, if necessary, to protect the Syrian revolution.

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTES

*USSR-Cambodia: The Cambodian defense minister has confirmed that the USSR is providing Cambodia with six MIG-17s (Frescos), with delivery expected in about one month. He said Cambodian personnel probably would be sent to the USSR for pilot and maintenance training. Delivery of the jets will break the West's monopoly in military assistance to Cambodia.

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Indonesia-Malaysia: Indonesian Communist Party agents in Malaya and Singapore have been instructed to step up their subversive campaign against Malayan Prime Minister Rahman and the Malaysia Federation project. Party chairman Aidit ordered them to stimulate labor agitation, infiltrate government offices, and take other steps to undermine Rahman. These Communist efforts parallel the Indonesian Government's campaign against Rahman and Malaysia.

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Afghanistan: King Zahir Shah reportedly is appointing a caretaker government of civil servants after accepting Prime Minister Daud's resignation. Formation of a more permanent government may take several months. (The King appears to be in full control so far and Kabul is calm, with no unusual security measures evident.)

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Pakistan: The Ayub regime is seriously concerned over the growth of labor unrest in Karachi following the killing of four strikers by police on 1 March. The government is seeking settlements of grievances which have idled up to 60,000 workers and several hundred plants. Officials fear that the unrest may spread to East Pakistan where some antiregime demonstrations are being planned in connection with the National Assembly session which opened on 8 March.

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Executive Offices of the White House
 Special Counsel to the President
 The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs
 The Scientific Adviser to the President
 The Director of the Budget
 The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
The Department of State
 The Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
 The Director of Intelligence and Research
The Treasury Department
 The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Under Secretary of the Treasury
The Department of Defense
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of the Army
 The Secretary of the Navy
 The Secretary of the Air Force
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense
 The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy
 Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
 Chief of Staff, United States Army
 Commandant, United States Marine Corps
 U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO
 Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
 Commander in Chief, Pacific
 Commander in Chief, Atlantic
 The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
 The Director, The Joint Staff
 The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff
 The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army
 The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
 The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force
The Department of Justice
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